

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION - NINE STATEMENT REGARDING PARAS 15 AND 16
OF AFRICAN GROUP'S DRAFT DECLARATION

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF STATEMENT WHICH THE FRG
SPEAKING FOR THE NINE ATTEMPTED TO MAKE IN COMMITTEE I
WORKING GROUP. CHAIRMAN (GHANA) OF THE WORKING GROUP
INTERRUPTED THE NINE SPOKESMAN AND RULED HIM OUT OF ORDER.
NEVERTHELESS, THE SENSE OF THE STATEMENT WAS FULLY UNDER-
STOOD BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING. THE NINE INTEND
TO REPEAT THE STATEMENT DURING DELIBERATIONS
WHEN PARAS 15 AND 16 ARE DISCUSSED.

QUOTE - MR. PRESIDENT, ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATIONS OF
THE NINE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, I
SHOULD LIKE IMMEDIATELY TO STATE OUR COMMON POSITION:

THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GENERAL CONSENSUS ON THE OBJECTIVES
OF THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION.

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IN THIS CONTEXT LET ME REITERATE OUR FIRM POSITION IN
TOTALLY REJECTING ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. THE
PEOPLES AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NINE COUNTRIES OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY UNRESERVEDLY CONDEMN RACIAL DISCRIM-
INATION AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 1 OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL

DISCRIMINATION. SUCH DISCRIMINATION CONTRADICTS THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE NINE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE NINE HAVE A VERY FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE ERADICATION OF APARTHEID AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO PREVAIL UPON SOUTH AFRICA TO ABANDON THIS ABHORRENT POLICY.

HOWEVER, MR. PRESIDENT, THE NINE HAVE ALWAYS MADE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT READY TO ACCEPT THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM OF ELEMENTS WHICH WE CONSIDER TOTALLY IRRELEVANT AND EXTRANEEOUS TO IT. SUCH IS THE CASE WITH PARAS 15 AND 16 OF THE PROPOSAL WHICH HAS JUST BEEN BROUGHT UP.

WE FEEL THAT, BY INTRODUCING SUCH FORMULATIONS HERE IN THE CONFERENCE, THE OBJECTIVE OF OUR COMMON FIGHT AGAINST RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WILL BE ALTERED. THE NINE ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS CONFERENCE ON THIS BASIS OF THE PROGRAMME ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION 3057 WHICH WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DURING ITS 28TH SESSION. IF THIS BASIS IS CHANGED WE SHALL HAVE TO DRAW THE NECESSARY CONCLUSIONS.

LET ME THEREFORE END BY EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE CON-
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SENSUS WHICH HAS PREVAILED CONCERNING THE PREPARATION OF THIS CONFERENCE WILL CONTINUE. ONLY WITH CONSENSUS AND JOINT EFFORT CAN WE MAKE THIS CONFERENCE THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE DECADE. END QUOTE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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